

Joseph J. Chella
Principal

Hassan Robinson
Assistant Principal

The Bennet Star



November 2014

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Things are moving right along here at Bennet Academy! It's hard to believe that we're approaching our Thanksgiving Break. I want to take a moment and share with you some of the wonderful things happening here at Bennet and to share how great your children are transitioning to sixth grade! I know I speak for all staff when I say your children are excelling here at Bennet Academy!

Hopefully, you all had a chance to go over your child's Progress Report that they brought home on 10/14. If by any chance you didn't see the Progress Report, please ask your child for it. If you need another copy, please let us know. Additionally, we mailed home an extra copy for those students that earned a grade(s) of a D+ or below. As a reminder, we ask all parent(s)/guardian(s) to sign and return the Progress Report to school.

I want to remind and encourage those who, at any point, have a concern about their student academically or socially, to e-mail the appropriate staff with the concern. All staff e-mails can be accessed from the Bennet website under "Staff Directory". However, if you feel your concern has not been satisfactorily addressed through e-mail or phone contact, please call our guidance office to make an appointment with that staff member and/or team.

We have been working hard to instill our Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) Program into everyday interactions here at Bennet. We have also had team building activities, an anti-bullying assembly and Support Services Staff-implemented classroom lessons around *Citizenship and Caring*. Both staff and students are collaboratively working to foster an environment of tolerance and respect here at Bennet Academy. The results of our efforts are evidenced in the smiling faces of our students and staff each and every day!

I also want to thank all that helped chaperone our Walk-a-Thon and Fall Social. Both events were a great time had by all. A special thanks to our terrific Physical Education department for coordinating our Walk-a-Thon and to our wonderful PTSA for coordinating the Fall Social!! We're looking forward to our second Family Fun Activity, our Family Movie Night, on Friday, 11/14 at 6:30PM in the Cone Gym. Like all Family Fun Activities, this event is free of charge. Popcorn and water will be provided free as well.

Lastly, I want to take a moment and thank all of you for your support and encouragement these first few months. It really is appreciated by the entire staff! Special thanks to those parents that have taken the time to stop by and say hello. As always, please feel free to contact us at any point if you have a question, concern, idea or you would like to share a positive experience of your child.

Sincerely,

Joe Chella

Joe Chella, Principal

PRINCIPAL HOURS

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

November 19

December 17

January 7 and 21

February 18

March 4

April 1

May 6 and 20

June 3



ABSENT LINE

Please call the 24 hour absent telephone line every time your child is absent from school:

860-647-3583

Please leave your child's name, home base teacher, team, and the reason for the absence.
Thank you!



Sixth Grade Physical and Immunizations

All sixth grade students are required to have a physical and proper immunizations by June 1, 2015 on file in the Bennet Academy Health Office. The blue state physical forms must be dated after January 2014 to June of 2015. The State of Connecticut also requires that each student have a Tdap booster after age 11; two varicellas; and a meningococcal vaccine. Failure to provide documentation of the proper health requirements may result in your student not being allowed to enter grade 7 at Iling Middle School. If you have any questions, please call and speak with a school nurse at 860-647-3582. Thank you.



Bennet Academy S.T.A.R.S. Award Winners



Congratulations to the following students who received a S.T.A.R.S. Award at Bennet Academy recently: Bryan Dibattista, Quivera Graham, Cameron Hallenbeck, Abigayle Ather, Trishia Cabonita, Jack Keller, Amber Moriarty, Arieliz Rivera, Sam Hedlund, Kaia McLaughlin, Stella Mederios-Gomez, Julia Monty, Paige Gagnon, Zach Baranowski, Alexandria Salazar, Caleb Briggs, Jaylen Torres, Ana Pushi, Angel Diaz, Justin Keller, Colby Lawson, Arianna Michaud, Jason Phasouk, Jayson Negon, Keiwaun St. Ange, Jason Starkweather, Tajanay Banks, Madison Norris, Ella Ryerson, Liya Jose, Izabella Ricciardi, Talitha Lewis, Morgan Zalcman, Nay'ija Shelton, Avant White, Danial Eger, Matthew Guivas, Wendy Valerio-Mata, Kassie Saunders, Jack Beauregard, Ingrid Polanco, Anthony Owens, John Macon, Olivia Kilgus, Syeda Ruhul, Annabelle Bowes, Keyshon Miller, Jenna Burke, Annabelle Watson, Rachel Doherty, Zaynah Bhura, Laurence Cabonita, Gwenyth Labbe, Callen Wallace, Giuliana Squatrito, Trinade Whittingham, Shawn Rock, Destiny Hall, Donald Cosman, Kahmar Manson, Jay Carpenter, Andrew Pryce, Jason Finkbein, Ian Lythgoe, Rachel Nguyen, Alyssa Cantres, Khalid Khatib, Momna Ali.

Their pictures are highlighted on our Bennet Academy television monitor located outside the main office. We are proud of our students for the positive choices they are making at Bennet Academy.

Physical Education News

All Bennet students did an excellent job with their Physical Fitness tests in October!

In November we will be putting our soccer skills into action with gameplay, and learning all about football in our flag football unit! Remember to check your day schedule so that you can be prepared with sneakers on the days you have Physical Education. Also, please bring a sweatshirt or a light jacket to class; on nice days we will be going outside.



Bennet Academy Art Class

After studying aspects of a value scale, Mrs. Guzzi's art class is finishing up 3 part pumpkin works using 5 values in pencil, values of oil pastels and also watercolor to demonstrate how to create a three dimensional looking work on a 2 dimensional surface.

After studying the scientific elements of clay, Mrs. Reimels' class is completing closed-form pinch pots. They will be fired in preparation for glazing.

All of the art classes are studying the elements and principals of art in conjunction with each project and in line with national art standards.



Gabby



Marianna



Jaxon



Tiffany



Arianna



Jocelyn



Students in after-school activities will board late buses at 4:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

SAFETY REMINDER TO PARENTS

Please be sure to have your child exit and enter your car on the sidewalk side of the street. You may also drop off your child in the staff parking lot on School Street.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT STAFF

Mr. Kleiner,
Band Director

Mrs. Browning,
Orchestra
Director

Mrs. Sandefer, Choral
Director and
Classroom Music

Mr. Marino,
Classroom Music



Music Notes

Musical Notes

CONCERT DATES

Concerts are an opportunity for students to share with parents, family and friends all of their hard work. Our musicians will have an opportunity to showcase their talents at three evening concerts. Please mark the dates on your calendar so that you can help celebrate their successes.

Bennet Academy Winter Concert – Thursday, December 11, 7:00PM at MHS

Townwide String Concert – Tuesday, April 7, 7:00PM at MHS

Townwide Band Concert – Wednesday, April 8, 7:00PM at MHS

Townwide Chorus Concert – Thursday, April 9, 7:00PM at MHS

Bennet Spring Concert – Tuesday, May 5, 7:00PM at MHS

Practice Logs

Students in Band and Orchestra should plan on handing in their first practiced log the end of September. For every 100 minutes of practice students will earn a star. Students will receive recognition for their efforts at morning rehearsals.

Ensemble Rehearsals

Students have been assigned ensembles based on their team. Please help your child to remember their instrument and music on rehearsal days.

DAY A: ORCHESTRA for teams Truth, Ruby Bridges, Mandela and Clementé

DAY B: ORCHESTRA for teams Angelou, Lincoln, and Escalanté

DAY C: BAND for teams Angelou, Ruby Bridges, Truth and Lincoln

DAY D: BAND for teams Mandela, Clementé and Escalanté

DAY E: CHORUS for teams Clementé, Angelou and Mandela

DAY F: CHORUS for teams Lincoln, Truth, Ruby Bridges and Escalanté

In addition to the above rehearsals each group will have two combined rehearsals before the Winter Concert and students will need their instrument in school for those rehearsals.

12/2 and 12/11 will be the combined A and B Orchestra rehearsal dates

12/3 and 12/9 will be the combined C and D Band rehearsal dates

12/5 and 12/10 will be the combined E and F Chorus rehearsal dates

The final rehearsal for Chorus and orchestra will be held at MHS. Students in these groups will be receiving permission slips.

Bennet Counseling Corner

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

The Pillar of the month in November is **CARING** and Bennet Academy students, staff and families will be participating in a **food drive** spearheaded by our afterschool FLASH program. Beginning **Nov 10**, the **FLASH** program will be collecting non-perishable food items which will be donated to Manchester Families for Thanksgiving. FLASH students will also be cleaning up Charter Oak Park this month.

Manchester has an array of programs which help to benefit our students. If you want your child to get involved in the community, **Manchester's Youth Services** offers some great programs (and they are free!) which include Girls' Group, Community Service Learning—Journey, Dimensions (of Wellness), Power of the Pen and Boys council. These are fantastic programs which are fun and help to build character. If you're looking for more information you can call Youth Services at **860 647-5213**.

As the holidays approach remember what's important, caring and connections. When stressed, step back and take a deep breath and take a true inventory of what's important to you. Take time, role model this for your children and encourage them to do the same. Too much on your to do list? Take one piece at a time, once that's done move on to the next... this is also a great strategy for our students with school and home expectations. Remember support service staff is always here to support you.

Share the Gl  ove

Share the Gl  ve

Team Angelou will be collecting NEW winter gloves, hats, and scarves for our annual "Share the Glove" campaign.

Donations will be used to "warm up" Manchester families.
(MACC will disperse them)

Our goal is to collect 300 items.

Donation Dates are November 6th to December 6th.

Please help us by sending in your donations to your student's home base,
or dropping off in the school office!



Future Problem Solvers



Future Problem Solving

Impact of Social Media: Is a Facebook Friend Really a Friend?

Students in the Future Problem Solving Program (FPS) are currently tackling their first problem for the school year. The topic is *Impact of Social Media, an examination of the pros and cons of Social Media trends and how social media may change our world in the future. Students will be competing against other Future Problem Solving teams across the state of Connecticut as they strive to achieve the most comprehensive and creative solutions to this important social issue.*

According to, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Skype, wikis, blogging, tweeting - all of these words have entered our lives in the last few years. The impact of Web 2.0 and the rise of associated social media have changed our lives in many ways that we are only just beginning to understand.

Regimes have fallen because of the use of social media; careers can be jeopardized due to past and present social events posted on social media; people all over the world are able to collaborate in real time to work and to play. Some people think social media has a detrimental effect on people's social lives; others believe it is a new and exciting way of socializing and developing relationships.

How might social media continue to impact our lives? Who will monitor the truth and accuracy of social media? Will social media lead to increased social isolation or enhanced global collaboration? Is there a need for controls, monitoring, or restrictions on social media? Do the positives outweigh the detrimental effects? Does any government have the right to legislate the use of social media by its citizens? These are just some of the questions FPS students are discussing and devising solutions for at Bennet Academy. (Topic description taken from Future Problem Solving Program, International website: fpspi.org)

To contact the FPS coach, Samantha Randazzo, call 860-647-3571 ext 70576 or email: samranda@manchesterct.gov

Please visit fpspofct.org or fpspi.org for more information about the Future Problem Solving Program.

October 2014 Citizenship recipients: Amad Zareef, Ensley Brogan, Gabrielle Gajewski, Chauncy Gwynn, Jonathan Suarez, Edisha Galan, Christina Yang, Aidan Quinn, Quivera Graham, Halie Chabot, Vivian Hunt, John Macon, Abigail Ather, David Hernandez, Jack McHugh, Jordan Stewart, Cassandra Zajac, Sean Coward, Shayanna Amato, Rachel Doherty, Liya Jose, Michael Figley.



Team Angelou

Greetings from Team Angelou!

We have settled into a very good routine on team. Students are now familiar with their schedules, locker trips, specials, and daily operations. We have had several STARS certificates awarded this month. Check the Bennet website to see them all. Discovery Camp was awesome. Not only were our students very well behaved (as per the staff at the camp!), but they had a very rich experience learning about diversity. And a lot of FUN! The students that did not attend the camp also had a great week. They were extremely well behaved and earned a movie on the last day. We brought in the gym mats and everyone watched the movie, ate popcorn and enjoyed themselves. We are supporting another community service initiative that Team Mandela is coordinating. We are collecting new Journals for the March of Dimes. They are giving them as part of a care package to families who have babies in the NICU. Our own Community Service Project will launch the first week in November. We call it Share the Glove. Students will be collecting gloves, mittens, hats and scarves over the course of November. We will donate them to M.A.C.C. for distribution with their food baskets for the holiday. The items must be new. Thank you in advance for your support in this project! **In Math**, we are finishing up our unit in the enVision Math Common Core Program on using equivalent fractions as a strategy to add and subtract fractions. We are now learning how to multiply fractions. As mathematicians we are learning that multiplying a whole number by a fraction involves division as well as multiplication. Go ahead and ask your child about solving real world math problems with fractions - they can give you the answer! **In Social Studies**, students have learned about the 5 Themes of Geography and completed a project in class using them. We are now studying Culture. Students will soon be creating their own cultures, based on the cultural traits they have learned about in class. It is a fun project and students really enjoy it.

In Science we have been learning about all forms of matter with interesting labs to reinforce the concepts.

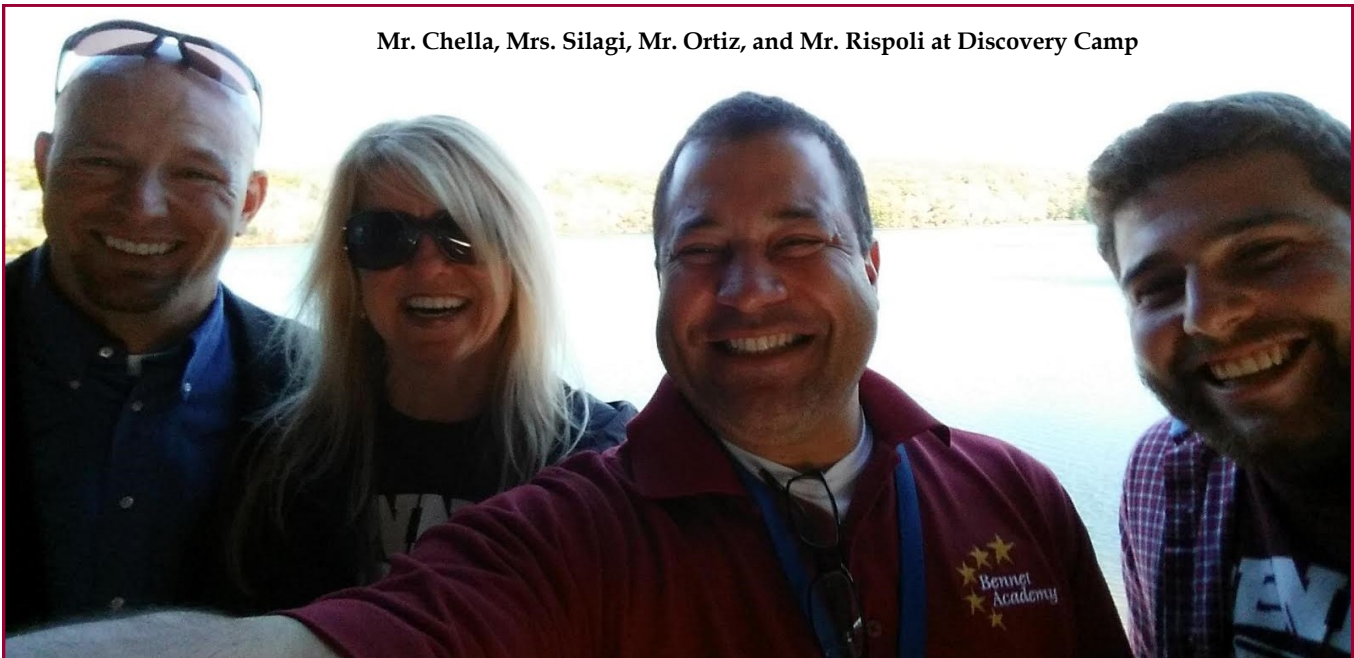
In Language Arts we have been spending time learning how to elaborate in our writing, use proper mechanics, and have introduced Figurative Language. All classes are working to improve the writing process and students' comprehension. Remember to send in those hats, gloves and scarves as our students rally to Share the Glove!

Team Angelou:

Teachers: Mrs. Gibson, Mr. Ortiz, Mrs. Silagi and Miss Blum

Paras: Mrs. Diehl, Mr. Rispoli

Mr. Chella, Mrs. Silagi, Mr. Ortiz, and Mr. Rispoli at Discovery Camp



Team Mandela



Dear Team Mandela Parents,

Students have had some excitement over the past month as each of them received a new google chrome book!!! Lessons using the chrome books will be used across all subject areas as a means of keeping children motivated and engaged in their daily lessons. So far, students have loved the use of chromebooks in the classroom and have responded positively to their work centered around the use of technology. As a reminder:

- Please remember to check your child's planner daily. This is a great way of discovering what your child is learning in class, a way to check homework assignments for the following day, or a fantastic way to send and receive communication with your child's teachers.
- Red Communication Folders are sent home every Tuesday. Please remember to review all notices coming home and to sign off on parent check sheet inside.
- Report Card Conferences Slips: will be sent home in the red communication folders on November 11th. This will give you the opportunity to sign up for your child's report card conferences which will be held December 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. Before school and afterschool appointments fill up quickly so it is important to return your request as soon as possible. Should you have any questions, please let us know and we will address them as soon as possible.

Language Arts:

Reading (Ms. Swanbon): Team Mandela is currently finishing the book, "The Giver," by Lois Lowery. Thus far, students have enjoyed the story and have made significant progress in all areas. Focus areas remain on strengthening reading activities, and how to use detail from the text to support this thinking. We have also been learning how to safely surf the internet for research and determine which websites are credible and those that are not.

Writing (Mrs. Matlock): Students are learning to build their writing stamina! Students are writing full page narrative journal entries daily. They are learning the art of "writing the way they speak" while keeping in mind their target audience, which will differ depending upon their writing topic. Creating a love of writing is the first and most important step in this process. We are well on our way!

Vocabulary (Mr. Reisine): We are using Google Slides to explore our Greek and Latin roots. Soon, we will be using text and literature to investigate aspects of figurative language, such as metaphors, foreshadowing, similes, and paradoxes.

Science: Mrs. Matlock: In science, students continue to study the properties of matter. They have enjoyed participating in labs that explore different ways to measure the volume of liquid, regular solids and irregular solids. Currently, they are using their chrome books to create google slide presentations highlighting what they have learned thus far in their science class. As we continue to delve deeper into the unit, students will be able to identify and explain both the physical and chemical properties of matter and will complete labs that demonstrate the concepts of state and density. Science is fun!

Mathematics: Mr. Reisine: In math, we are wrapping up our unit on dividing fractions, and are heading into adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing decimals. The students will continue to practice fractions with the Scholastic program Fraction Nation. As a reminder, Fraction Nation can be accessed from home as well.

Social Studies: Ms. Swanbon: Students have started a unit on the 5 Themes of Geography. We are currently learning about geography and its components. Students are extending their knowledge of the world to the 12 aspects of culture. These may include: language, dress, foods, religion, customs or traditions, education, government, transportation, recreation, the arts, and the economy. Students are bringing in facts about their own cultures into the classroom. This is wonderful to see as the students embrace their teams cultural differences.

Team Mandela Continued

Team Mandela Build Scarecrows for the Town of Manchester's Fall Festival



Team Clementé

Clementé Correspondence



Erika DiPietro and Gabrielle Morton-Lane compare the effect water temperature has on the solubility of sugar.

Team Clemente is off to a great start! We are now acclimated to the building, know our classmates and teachers well, and understand the high expectations we hold at Bennet Academy. Team Clemente has been doing an outstanding job exemplifying the STARS expectations.

We ended the month with a fantastic trip to Foster Family Farm in South Windsor, where students navigated through a corn maze using their orienteering and map reading skills, chose the perfect pumpkin, and got to make some new friends. Thank you to all chaperones who attended this trip. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Arieliz Rivera and Amber Moriarty reflect on their observations from today's lab.

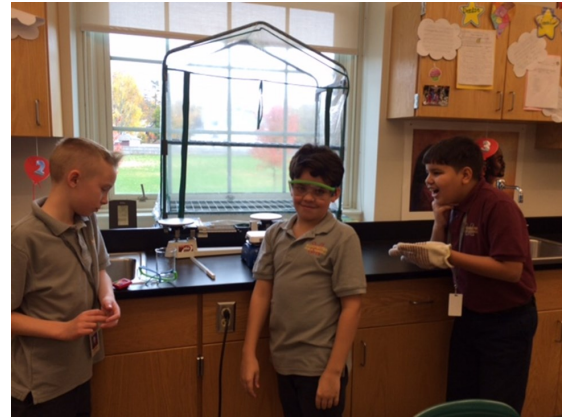


Team Clementé Continued

Social Studies News From Mrs. Sullivan

In Social Studies classes, students are using a variety of non-fiction resources such as the almanac, atlas, and articles to learn concepts related to the Five Themes of Geography. Students continue to strengthen their map skills and are learning new content vocabulary as well. The first test will be administered before Thanksgiving break and will cover map skills and basic world Geography. Team Clemente is enthusiastic about Social Studies!

Cameron Hallenbeck, Aidan Quinn, and Luis Salazar get materials ready for their lab.



In Mrs. Melesko's Science class, students are using what they have learned about mass and volume and applying it to density. During labs students used a triple beam balance to find mass and water displacement to find the volume of irregularly shaped objects. Ask your student how they know whether or not an object will float in a liquid, based on known density. We are now exploring physical and chemical changes. This week, children designed their own lab to participate in an investigation of solubility. In this lab students chose an independent variable they thought would increase the rate of the solubility of a sugar cube. They then wrote their own hypothesis and procedure and raced to see who could get their sugar cube to dissolve the fastest. Ask your student which independent variable proved to be most effective. For some extra science exploration from home, students are encouraged to design their own labs which address any day to day problems.

Please encourage your child to participate in this year's science fair. A flyer went home on October 31st explaining this wonderful event. Bennet's Science Night will be March 4th. Starting, November 7th, Mrs. Randazzo, our Enrichment Teacher, and I will be coteaching science classes on Fridays with a focus on the invention process. Please contact me if you have any questions. This will get your child brainstorming possible inventions they can pursue.

If you have internet access at home, your child can visit www.scilinks.org and type in the textbook code found in each chapter of our text. The websites provided explore the concepts we are covering in the classroom.

Math ~ Ms. Paluso

Students have been busy throughout the day utilizing math skills across the curriculum. To begin the day, students that require multiplication fact practice are logging in to Fast Math, while others are solving in Fraction Nation. Both of these are web-based Scholastic programs, which means they can be accessed by home. Classes persevere through spiral review of math problems each morning, offering an opportunity to share their strategies and math arguments.

In addition, classtime is focused on the enVisions program, and students are slowly beginning to use their Chromebooks during class. We continue our study of fractions, moving from the review of addition and subtraction, to multiplication and division. Our biggest obstacle has been the multiplication facts. Any support you can offer at home with this will only benefit the students. Visit www.multiplication.com for fun practice of facts. Over the next few weeks we will transition to the equivalents in decimal and percent form.

Our most recent project is the Movie Theatre Design. We are using long division to design the theatre from purchasing screens, projectors, and seating, to hiring employees and configuring the concession stands. The students are thoroughly enjoying this engaging project. We'll be sure to feature some designs in the next newsletter.

Keep up the great work Clemente!

Team Escalanté

Science—In class, the students have worked on physical and chemical properties of matter. We have been doing a lot of hands-on activities in class to help reinforce the difference between physical and chemical changes. We will wrap up the first unit by the middle of November and start working on elements.

Writing—The students are working on the second trait of writing—organization. We're working with a different mentor text to show how we can create exciting leads, transition and sequencing words/phrases, pacing, and ending with a strong resolution. The students are working on a personal narrative that they will use again in unit 2 to help them create their voice and work on editing and revising.

Reading—The students continue to read independently books that they have selected for themselves. They are eager to share the events, characters and endings of "can't put it down books" with their friends without spilling the beans. It is exciting to watch their infectious enthusiasm spread to other more reluctant readers.

The children continue to discuss figurative language and the purpose for an author using the various figurative language techniques. Additionally, we have discussed theme and characterization through the use of dialogue and illustrations.

Social Studies—The students engaged in a week log brainstorming and researching activity with the expectation that they would be able to answer the question, what is geography? They brainstormed, gathered evidence from online sources and geography books, sorted information into categories, discussed and collaborated with fellow students, and shared their findings with the class. At that point, the students analyzed the information and came to a consensus as to the answer to the question that began the week. It was a powerful and rich learning experience.

Math—We have been busy working on Math Tasks and Math Talk. Students should be able to model fractions as well as explain fractions. We have been working with real-world problems to connect our understanding of adding/subtracting/multiplying/dividing fractions. We just finished a Math quiz showing our computation skills and will be working on a Performance Task soon. We are almost ready to transition into our beginning discussions of decimals. Our pre-assessment on decimals shows that we have a lot of work to do!

LA - Vocab/Grammar—We are busy working on our Grammar/Vocab Notebooks, creating pages with our vocabulary words as well as our grammar review. Our focus in grammar has been on verbs. Students are identifying verbs, verbs tenses and creating vivid verbs to spice up our writing. We are almost ready for our next test on Vocabulary List #2. Some students are writing about being a can of soda, using vivid verbs to make an interesting, creative story. Some students are busy creating acrostic poems with the vocabulary words and vivid verbs!



Check your child's planner daily and be on the look-out for the weekly
Communications Folder (Sent home on Tuesday)

Team Lincoln

The Lincoln Team is having a fantastic year. Ms. Moretto, Ms. St. Laurent and Mr. Duva are so excited to have all of your children as team members!!

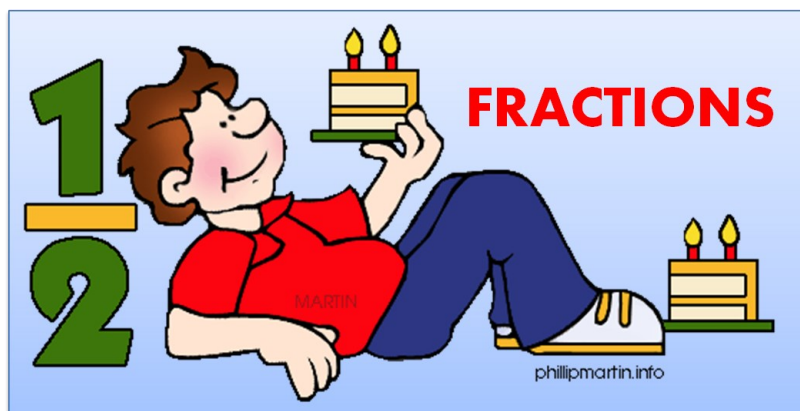
Our Language Arts classes have been hard at work as we delve into our first and second unit based on the craft and structure of narrative writing, point of view, vocabulary and comprehension skills. Students will continue to use elaboration in their writing when responding to a question and support their answers with evidence from the text. Our first Team activity is incorporating the students' experiences from Project Oceanology back to the classroom through class discussions and connections to their ocean experiences. As a culminating activity to reading five classic stories, Team Lincoln will be going on a field trip to New Haven, to view an Encore production, of these stories in Play format. These five plays we're reading and discussing in Reading and Language classes, are a jumping board to some great class discussions. After seeing the production, students will be responding to their reactions to the plays, in their Writing classes. Lincoln Team will be focusing on Reading, Writing and Language Skills, throughout the year.

We Continue to make progress in our ISP (Instructional Skills Period). Mrs. Fortin and Mrs. Montgomery have been working closely with our students, reading text for meaning and insight, as well as supporting us in science and math.

Science: As many of you are aware, our Connecticut Rivers Connections program is broken into two sessions: Half of our team will participate in the Fall and the other half in the Spring. Our first two experiences went well. The research voyage on Envirolab 2 proved to be fun and cold at times. We managed to catch a few striped anchovies, moonfish, and lady crabs. Our next trip will be to our sister school. Your child should be able to tell you the very sad story about Density, the person who broke Mr. Duva's heart. We finished October comparing the densities of diet and regular coke and we moving on to chemical and physical change.

Math: We are close to finishing our review of fractions and students have worked on adding, subtracting and multiplying fractions and using those skills to solve multi-step real world problems. Moving forward, we will be learning how to divide fractions and apply our knowledge to complex problems involving multiple operations. We will continue with computing problems with decimals and percents. Success with these concepts requires students to be proficient in their multiplication and division math facts. Please practice these math facts each night with your child.

Social Studies classes have been reviewing the five themes of geography. As we bring our world knowledge of the Earth to the topics we read, we also relate our personal experiences to our class discussions, eg., Maine Earthquake, hurricanes and global current events. Our team reads, analyzes the impact the news has on our country, our world and our immediate families. Students will be beginning a Canadian Country project, applying the five themes of geography to their research. Class presentations and book projects will be the result of our studies. Striving for the Depth of Knowledge three and four levels will also be our focus. These levels of thinking and relating these words to help give meaning to our topics of discussion, will enhance our goals of higher order of thinking in all of our subject areas.



Team Truth

Team Truth has had a busy and exciting fall. The students really enjoyed their time at Discovery Camp and it was a great team building experience for all who attended. We look forward to our follow up visit in the spring.

Congratulations to Mr. McDougal's class. They walked the most laps during our Walk-a-thon and were rewarded with a pizza party.

Parent/Teacher conference information will be going home in the Parent Communication folder. Conferences will be held the first week of December. Please be on the lookout for your scheduled conference time.

In Language Arts, students are beginning a study on the authors of the plays we will be attending in December. We will be working on Author Profiles, and reading the works of each of the author with a culminating activity of comparing and contrasting the stories and the plays.

In Social Studies we have started using Chrome and students are really enjoying the experience. We are working hard and are learning to navigate these new waters together. Each student has received assignments, began a notebook, created a presentation using the five themes of geography as our outline, and shared their research with their class. Hopefully they will be able to share with you at home as well. If you are interested in learning more about how we are using this new technology in our classroom, please contact Mrs. Carlson. Depending on interest I can touch base with individual parents or arrange for a parent information night.

In Math we have been working with adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions. We will be transitioning to working with decimals as our unit continues. Please remember, there are many web sites that offer help, www.phschool.com and www.phschool.com/cmp2 are very helpful. Many people have also found www.khanacademy.org very helpful as well. Extra help sessions are Mondays and Wednesdays until 3:30, so transportation must be provided.

In Science we have been working the physical and chemical properties of matter. Our salmon eggs will be arriving the first week of December. Donations of Poland Spring Water for the salmon habitat would be greatly appreciated.

Team Truth is wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Enjoy your time off with family and friends.



Team Ruby Bridges

In Ms. Broidis' social studies class students have been completing their own design of an amusement park. This concludes our unit on maps. Students were also reading non-fiction articles and sharing them through Socratic Seminar. Students were deciding what the moral question being discussed was and then explaining their position. Students were engaged in a lively conversation surrounding topics that they were passionate about.

In Ms. Stevenson's math class students are working on multiplying fractions. Next we will move on to dividing fractions and working with decimals. Every month, students are assigned a problem of the month that is to be completed by a given due date.

In Mr. Weyrauch's science class students are investigating properties and states of matter. Students will investigate the gas laws and changes in states of matter. Students are currently researching scientists Robert Boyles and Jacques Charles and creating presentations to present to their peers. Our next unit will cover elements, compounds, and mixtures. We will be preparing our Salmon tank for the December arrival of our eyed eggs.

In language arts students are completing unit one. Students in writer's workshop have been focusing on personal narratives. Students are expected to incorporate the six traits of writing in their essays. For word study, students are learning Greek and Latin roots, as well as utilizing Abrevocabra to expand their vocabulary. Students are reading level-appropriate novels in small groups. Students are then creating comprehension questions and identifying new vocabulary words from the text to share with other students. Students should be reading 30 minutes nightly and responding in their journals.

Team Ruby Bridges' is looking forward to Discovery Camp on November 5-7.



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Manchester, CT 06040

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Hassan Robinson,
Assistant Principal

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Fax: 860-647-3577

We're on the web:

<http://publicschools.manchesterct.gov>

Manchester Public Schools is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. Manchester Public Schools does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (including, but not limited to, intellectual disability, past or present history of mental disorder, physical disability or learning disability), genetic information, or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws. Manchester Public Schools does not unlawfully discriminate in employment and licensing against qualified persons with a prior criminal conviction. Inquiries regarding Manchester Public School's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to:

Terri Smith, Human Resources Specialist
Manchester Public Schools
45 North School Street
Manchester, CT 06042
860-647-3595



Title IX Notice

Title IX is a federal law which states: "No person in the United States shall on the basis of sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal assistance.

Manchester's Title IX coordinator is:

Terri Smith
Manchester Public Schools
45 North School Street
Manchester, CT 06042
Phone: 860-647-3595
Fax: 860-647-3327



The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for monitoring the overall implementation of Title IX for the school district and coordinating the institution's compliance with Title IX in all areas covered by implementing regulations. The major responsibility is the prevention of sexual harassment and discrimination.